

**REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE
INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SUBMITTED BY ANNIE WOLVERTON
REGIONAL ADVISOR –FRASER REGION
MARCH 21, 2009**

The IDP Supervisors in the Lower Mainland area have been meeting regularly every month. There is a Regional Inservice being planned for later this spring with Dr. Wendy Hall who spoke at the Provincial IDP Inservice about sleep and infants. She was a very informative speaker and there has been a strong request to have her give a presentation to the IDP staff again. The other part of the Regional Inservice is still to be confirmed and the request from the Infant Development Consultants in the area is to have a presenter discuss autism. Megan Tardif, a Transition Manager from MCFD, specifically from the ECD-CYSN office in the Fraser Region came to the last IDP Supervisors' meeting to discuss a number of items, one of them being the challenge some of the IDP's are having with the contract requirement of placing any new referral of a child in care (CIC) at the top of their waiting list and then seeing the child within thirty days when the Programs are receiving an overwhelming number of referrals. While we are all in agreement that the CIC are a very high risk population who are in need of attention as fast as can be delivered, some of the Programs are finding this challenging due to the high volume of referrals they are receiving each month.

The Western Canadian Association for Infant Mental Health meets monthly and at the most recent meeting, Dr. P. Reebye gave a presentation about children and trauma. These meetings are a venue for many mental health clinicians who work with children and families receive support and new information.

The initial summary is done regarding the research I have been working on looking at family health once they have a child with a disability. The presentation of the summary was done one evening and then followed by a daylong retreat for the families who had participated in the research. The retreat was an opportunity for the families to be together and brainstorm, with the help of a facilitator, what they wanted to see done with the results of the research. The parents had time to be together, be fed and share their feelings and ideas with each other. The results of this research, while not surprising, is very disturbing and the information needs to be taken to people and agencies who can make positive changes for these families and the families to come, so they do not have to go through the negative experiences which these families have been through and are continuing to live with everyday.

Dana Brynelsen was asked, at short notice to inform the ECD-CYSN Committee in the Fraser Region about IDP in the Fraser Region. On Thursday, March 19, 2009, Dana gave a very informative overview of **IDP in the Fraser Region** to this large committee. This presentation was very helpful for many people to assist them in

understanding what IDP is and what IDP does. An important discussion point was raised which is very worthy of further discussion. There were no children with FASD referred to any of the IDP's in the Fraser Region and yet there were 151 children with NAS referred during this same period of time. These numbers are taken from the latest Biennial Statistics which Amelia Mathieson manually put together and laboured over for months. Thank you Amelia. These statistics collected every second year give a useful overview of the IDP's throughout the Province. From Dana's presentation, we are left with the knowledge that it is very likely that the children referred with NAS have been prenatally exposed to drugs and alcohol and yet the alcohol part of these referrals is not being captured. We briefly discussed changing the way the IDP's list these referrals in their statistics.

Of great concern was a complaint made recently to MCFD that some of the Gesell items were not safe. This complaint is taken very seriously by myself and all of the IDP staff. I am still unsure exactly what the complaint is and regarding which items, however, there is a recall of some of the wooden items listed on the IDP website. Distributing anymore Gesell kits or Gesell items was halted very quickly after the complaint was made. The Gesell orders which were paid for and not sent will now be filled and sent without some of the wooden items, however, no further orders will be taken. The Gesell orders from now on will once again need to be sent to the United States.

I want to thank Herb Chan for all of his work on the Linked-DISC data collection system. I am anxious to continue to participate on the Linked-DISC Committee and offer my support where possible.

I had the pleasure of attending an Open House at Minster Reid's office recently. It was a well-attended Open House and there were people of all ages present. There were so many interesting people to talk to and I was delighted to see Minister Reid once again.